

Last Robbery Suspect Captured

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Torrance Herald

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GUNMAN ABDUCTS WOMAN

Victim Raped At Gunpoint, Police Told

An areawide search for a stocky gunman was launched by Southland peace officers Friday after a Torrance waitress told of an afternoon and night of riding Southern California freeways and byways with a gun in her side. She was raped three times at the point of a gun, she told officers after she escaped from her abductor about dawn Friday.

Det. Don Cook of the Torrance Police Department reported that the 38-year-old waitress, a resident of the North Torrance area, was picked up by the gunman as she was returning to her home after visiting Alondra Park Thursday afternoon.

THE ATTRACTIVE victim was driving on 164th Street between Redondo Beach Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard when the gunman ran out, opened her car door, and jumped in pressing the gun to her side, she told officers.

She was forced to drive south on Crenshaw and then east on Artesia to the Harbor Freeway, and then eastward to the Lakewood area, she said. She was first attacked by the assailant somewhere near the Santa Ana Freeway in the Orange County area, she reported.

THE VICTIM and the gunman continued to drive around the freeway and side roads in eastern Los Angeles County for several hours before she was attacked again, she said. A third attack came during the night of terror.

The hunt for the gunman, believed to be about 5 feet 2 and weighing 160 pounds, started when the waitress called Los Angeles police after the gunman got out of the car in downtown Los Angeles early Friday. Torrance police were notified when it was determined that the abduction had taken place in this city.

Construction Due to Begin On Carson Park

Walteria Lake Completion Due Early Next Year

Completion of the Walteria Lake storm drain project in Torrance is expected in January, reports Supervisor Burton W. Chace. The project, now under construction, is expected to cost \$975,724.

Chace said the project will join with other newly completed drains and retention basins in the area to provide adequate flood control.

He also announced completion of the 228th Street drain and said the cost of the project had been \$407,807.

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A Penny for your Thoughts

How do you feel about a round robin tournament among the five high schools in Torrance to decide a real city champ in sports? asked the Pennies photographer of five fans at a Friday night game.

Mary Threadgill, 18024 Falda Ave.

"I think it would be a healthy thing to have a real cross-town rivalry — not to beat out each other's brains, but to play in a real competitive way. It would build spirit and maybe carry over into the scholastic side, too."

Father Ambrose, Bishop Montgomery teacher.

"I would like it. It would foster more community friendship and more competition among the youngsters. You would get to know a lot of people. Friendship and competition would be the main products, and good ones."

Patricia Bean, 20528 Vaccaro Ave.

"I think it would be good. It would give the schools more of a sense of sportsmanship and school spirit. There would be one big goal for the teams, and the competition among the schools would be very good."

Don Ramstead, 4167 W. 162nd St.

"Personally, I think it's a good idea. But there are six schools involved and it would become something on a quarter basis — it's not good to crown a champ that way. I would like to see it in the pre-season games."

Steve Witowich, 1775 Marinette Ave.

"I think the idea is good. It would encourage more competition among the schools and give the players more chance to play. There would be a lot of students who would enjoy it and as a result spirit would be increased."

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Bank Suspect Apartment Stake-Out Ends Hunt

The fourth suspect in the robbery of the Pacific State Bank at Normandie and Carson Street was arrested by FBI agents Thursday after a four-hour stakeout of a Los Angeles rooming house.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and deputy sheriffs arrested Edward R. Romero, 26, and discovered \$33,000 in a room at 402 S. Burlington Ave.

Romero was arraigned Friday before the U. S. Commissioner on charges of violating the Federal Bank robbery statute. He is being held at the Los Angeles County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail pending indictment by the Grand Jury.

OFFICERS said the capture of Romero solved one of the largest bank robberies in the history of Southern California. Already in custody are Raymond A. Vigneau, 26, of Long Beach; Jorge Velasco, 25, of Lawndale; and Avalino Reataza, 31, of Los Angeles. Officers reported Romero was the second of the two men who actually entered the bank and took currency and securities valued at \$204,000.

Velasco, a janitor at the bank, was arrested last week-end after he was implicated in the robbery. It was Velasco who first told police that he had been forced to admit a masked pair to the bank before it opened Oct. 4.

The pair remained in the bank a little over two hours, finally forcing an assistant manager and the chief teller to open the vault. They fled in a truck which was later found abandoned about six blocks from the bank.

VIGNEAU was captured in Buellton, north of Santa Barbara, last Saturday morning. Velasco was arrested shortly afterward, and officers later picked up Reataza on charges of receiving stolen goods.

The arrest of Romero ended an all-points search for the fourth man in the robbery. FBI agents and sheriff's deputies said they had been waiting almost four hours at the Burlington Avenue address when Romero arrived.

Only one shot was fired—a shot over Romero's head when he ran for a stairway. With the recovery of the \$33,000 found in Romero's room, police have now recovered \$196,000 in cash and securities taken in the holdup.

Vigneau, Velasco, and Reataza were arraigned last Monday before the U. S. Commissioner and ordered held in lieu of bail. Reataza was held in lieu of \$2,500 bail, while bail for the other three men was set at \$25,000.

SHINODA IS one of the nation's leading wholesale florists and a long-time resident of Torrance. He has been a member of the Kiwanis Club for many years, and boasts a 5-year perfect attendance record.

Elected to serve as Shinoda's first vice president when the club begins its new year next January was H. T. (Ted) Olson, 3217 Antonio, industrial relations manager for Union Carbide Chemicals Co. in Torrance. He has been serving as second vice president.

SECOND VICE president will be Dr. Phillip M. Halloran, 1010 Beech Ave., Torrance physician and anesthetist. He is now chairman of the club's international relations committee.

Dean L. Sears, 1635 Post Ave., was elected treasurer. Sears, manager of the Bank of America branch here for many years, before his retirement, is a past president of the club and has a 14-year perfect attendance record. Sears has been active in the investment (Continued on Page 2)



SCHOOL OPENED . . . Opening of Helicopter Institute at Torrance Municipal Airport Friday morning heralded the arrival of something new in the city, a flight school specializing in the training of helicopter pilots. Here (from left) at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies are Donald Townsend, owner of the Torrance school; James Haskin, president of Helicopter Institute; G. S. Williamson, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce; Marlane Norsoph, Miss Torrance; Mayor Albert Isen, and James Scinta, manager of the Torrance school. Other schools are operated by the firm at Ontario and Burbank.

Bullets Flatten Tires, End 100 MPH Chase

Two gun shots which punctured two tires of a fleeing car ended a 100-mile-an-hour chase through Torrance and Gardena late Wednesday.

Officer Robert Jones said he fired the shots as his partner pulled the patrol car along side the fleeing vehicle near 216th Street on Western Avenue. The cars were reportedly doing 105 miles-per-hour at the time.

Miss Megan Disario, 19, of 5102 Calle de Ricardo, emerged from her car unhurt and was arrested on charges of suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon—her car. She was also cited for 14 alleged traffic violations.

JONES, WHO fired the shots that punctured the tires on the driver's side of the car, said he and Officer Robert Huchel had set up a road block at 190th Street and Western Avenue when they heard the wo-

man headed in that direction. When the car came into view, the officers aimed a spotlight on it and raised a shotgun, but decided not to shoot when they saw it was a woman. The two officers raced their car to 110 miles-per-hour to catch the vehicle before slowing to 105 for the shots.

POLICE said the woman was first sighted on Western Avenue at 153rd Street traveling at an "excessive speed." When

Gardena officers tried to pull her to the side of the road, she made a complying gesture, and then raced from the scene.

Officers said she barely missed several cars at three intersections as she ran red lights. Before the chase ended, four patrol cars were trailing the speeding vehicle, including two Torrance cars.

When taken into custody, Miss Disario's only comment was, "I had a fight with Billy."

GODDARD WAS the first man in history to explore the entire length of the Nile River, and is credited with a similar feat along the 2,700-mile Congo River.

He also gained recognition in 1962 as the fastest civilian in the world. Goddard set a speed record of 1,406 miles per hour—exceeded only by test pilots and military pilots.

Data Processing Systems Subject of Board Meeting

A special meeting of the Board of Education has been called for 2 o'clock Monday afternoon. The meeting will be devoted to a report on the feasibility of automatic data processing for the Torrance school district.

Dr. Wallace Mueller of the University of Southern California will discuss automatic data processing systems with the trustees. A special meeting was called after some discussion at last week's meeting of the board.

The meeting will be held in the administrative office, 2335 Plaza Del Amo.

Saxons to Hear Explorer

John M. Goddard, adventurer, explorer, and star of his own television series, will present the first of two assembly programs at North High School Wednesday.

Goddard, whose show, "This Exciting World" is seen weekly on television, will show films on skydiving, jungle

wildlife in the Venezuelan tropics, and the 3,212-foot Angel Falls, highest in the world, according to Harold M. Klonecky, student activities advisor.

He will return to the campus in April for the second assembly program.

A graduate of the University of Southern California and Los Angeles High School, he was selected by the United States Chamber of Commerce as one of California's five outstanding young men. He has spoken to many students on college and high school campuses throughout the United States.

Retail Taxable Sales Increase

During the first half of 1963, taxable sales by retail stores in Southern California totaled \$5,588,868,000, Security First National Bank's research department has reported.

This represents an increase of more than seven per cent over the \$5,212,180,000 in taxable sales recorded in the first half of 1962.